



# TAYLOR

BIGGER BOAT, GREATER  
CULTURAL IMPACT

PAGE 16



## BEHIND THE COVER

Learning excellence, earning respect,  
making an impact.

It was noted author and apologist C.S. Lewis once said, "The world does not need more Christian literature. What it needs is more Christians writing good literature." The same could be said for filmmaking and storytelling. In a world that is technologically savvy and growing in both sophistication and cynicism, the goal of Taylor University's Film and Media program is to train young men and young women to pursue excellence in their craft that provides a credible and winsome testimony to a watching world. It is an excellence that has led some of those graduates to work on the sets of television programs, create special effects for film and television, and perform at a level that challenges those in the profession.





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*Page 27 Bible by Laura Lin from the Noun Project*

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Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America's oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 42 states and 36 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 64 fields of study are available. Taylor University is the number one school in the Midwest region in the *US News & World Report* survey, *America's Best Colleges*. Taylor has been ranked in the region's top three for 22 consecutive years.

The mission of Taylor University is to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ's redemptive love and truth to a world in need.



CHRISTIAN COLLEGE CONSORTIUM





## THE PLACE WITH THE PINK BARNES

A person cannot drive from Upland to Matthews without passing the beautiful white, columned house surrounded by the pink barns that served for 50 years as the place where two of Taylor University's greatest and most loyal friends lived.

Owned by Leland Boren and his wife, LaRita, the LeLaLo Farms are located just south of the Taylor campus. With its pink barns and pastures in which cattle and bison (or, buffalo, as most say) graze peacefully together, sometimes you might see even a llama or a peacock. As many times as I have driven past it in the last 33 years, I still sometimes find myself looking.

LaRita Gibbs was a young flight attendant nearly 60 years ago when she met a businessman named Leland Boren. Although initially unimpressed by him, she agreed to go out with him. A brief courtship followed and the two were later married, establishing their home on the highway, just south of Upland and Taylor University.

It was Leland who had the barns painted pink after LaRita confessed to him she missed the way the sunsets in her native state of Oklahoma reflected from the red dirt surrounding her family's barns, giving them a pink glow.

While the Borens had three children of their own, as well as a number of grandchildren, they became like parents to many, many Taylor students through their support of scholarship initiatives and through their generous giving that made buildings like the Euler Science Complex and the LaRita Boren Campus Center a reality that will bless generations of Taylor students. It's difficult even now to say just what those projects were because Leland preferred anonymity, citing the passage to "not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing," from Matthew 6.

Still, the word "Anonymous" became a sort of de facto signature on Leland's giving. Those "Anonymous" gifts benefitted Taylor

University, as well as many other Christian and state universities, churches, and other organizations.

After LaRita's unexpected death in 2011, Leland continued, bravely, as he maintained an intense work regimen that might have shortened the life expectancy of a younger person. But he missed her intensely. On November 23, at the age of 95, he slipped the bonds of this dying planet and saw his beloved LaRita again. But even greater, he came face-to-face with Jesus. What a joyful day that must have been. What a joyful day that will be for each of us who knows and loves Jesus.

Passing those pink barns every day was a source of joy for me as I reflected on Leland's love for his wife. They have come to mean something different now. One of the blessings of working at a place like Taylor all of these years is that you come to know and love so many people deeply, and from the heart. It is a two-edged sword, in a sense, because with relationships of such depth, the losses that inevitably come are even more profoundly felt.

I will see Leland again, and LaRita, and Don Odle '42, Brad Newlin '89, and Dan Jordan, as well as Lois Weed, Hazel Butz-Carruth, Mildred Chapman, and so many others whose lives have touched mine. Best of all, I will see Jesus. What a day that will be.



James R. Garringer H'15  
Editor



# THE BEST TRADITION OF THEM ALL

The Old Oaken Bucket game between Indiana and Purdue Universities. The electrifying start of the Indianapolis 500. And the Miss Madison hydroplane boat races on the Ohio River. These are among Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb's favorite Hoosier sports traditions. But the one he says is number one among them all is Silent Night at Taylor University.

Holcomb attended his first Silent Night game in December. It had been nearly 40 years since his last visit to Odle Arena - a place where he attended basketball camp for three years while he was in middle school.


As its legend and notoriety has grown, Taylor's Silent Night tradition has morphed. Originally conceived as a fun way to rally students to the former Ivanhoe's Classic men's basketball tournament, the premise was that students entered Odle Arena in silence and remained that way until Taylor scored the tenth point. Since the game immediately preceded the annual *Christmas With Jay* event, students came in pajamas for the game, and then trekked to the Hodson Dining Commons for an evening of Christmas carols, cookies, hot chocolate, and a reading of the Christmas story by then-President Jay Kesler '58, who was also clad in pajamas.

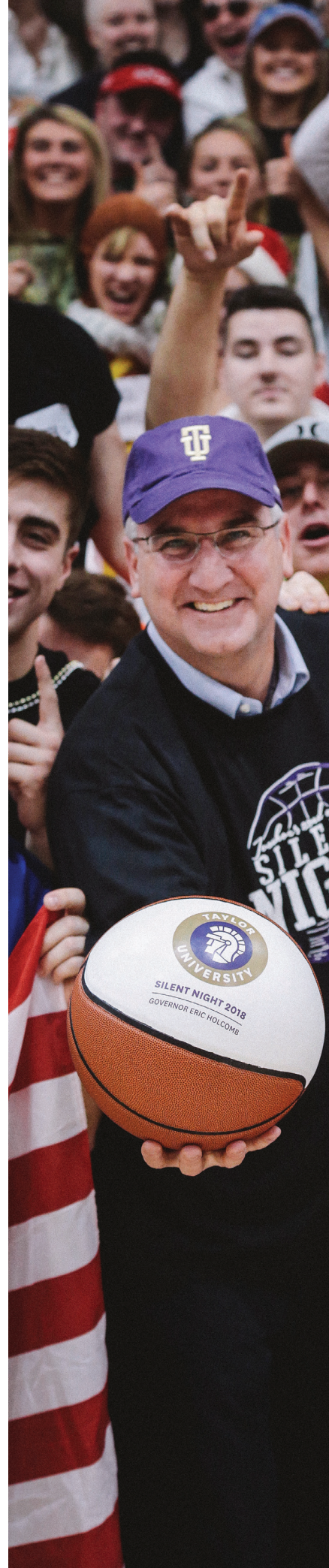
Eventually, the pajamas gave way to costumes and the crowds attending Silent Night continued to grow. The tenth point celebration became so raucous that play had to be stopped since students were spilling onto the court, leading to the most recent iteration of Silent Night - storming the court.

The event has drawn international attention from sports programming giants ESPN and Sports Illustrated to the CBS and NBC news.

"My favorite part of the Silent Night game was the combination of creativity, costumes, cheers, silence, court storming, and the competition," Holcomb said. "This tradition ranks at the top of all Indiana's sports traditions, right up there with starting each game singing our National Anthem."

While the court storming and noise have drawn the most attention, the second-best-loved part of the evening comes as the game is winding down with Taylor safely in the lead. The students wrap their arms around each other's shoulders and sway back and forth while singing the beloved Christmas carol *Silent Night*. But this year, and for the first time in the game's 22-year history, Taylor came out on the losing end, suffering a tough 2-point loss to Grace Christian University. Although the students did not sing during the game, they sang a few seconds after the game ended - a development that one Indianapolis television reporter said nearly moved him to tears.

It was moving for the Governor, too. "I've sang Silent Night 1,000 times in church, school, or in the car, but never every verse with 1,800 others standing and swaying," Holcomb said. "It gave me goosebumps to join in remembering and recognizing the true reason for the season, and that all our creativity comes from our Creator." 







Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb and Taylor President Lowell Haines posed with students during Taylor's Silent Night game.



# GREG DYSON

## Named Special Assistant to the President for Intercultural Initiatives

For Greg Dyson to uproot his family, leave a job at his alma mater, and move nearly 150 miles to a new job and community, there had to be a great reason. Dyson, now the Special Assistant to the President for Intercultural Initiatives at Taylor University, says there was.

Dyson's new position at Taylor is a similar role to the one he filled at Cedarville University, his alma mater, except that it is a cabinet-level appointment that will allow him to help craft a strategic plan for diversity and intercultural initiatives. Taylor President Lowell Haines '75 said in this newly-created role, Dyson will build on Taylor's existing intercultural programs so that every member of the Taylor community will thrive, prosper, and benefit from and contribute to the Taylor University mission.

Dyson's job history and education seems to have prepared him specifically for this job. His prior experience includes educational and ministry roles ranging from Dean of Admissions and Chaplain to the role of Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in London, Ohio. Dyson holds an M.S. in Organizational Leadership from Cairn University, a B.A. in Bible from Cedarville University, and a Diploma from Word of Life Bible Institute. He also was ordained as a minister in the American Baptist Church, Springfield, Massachusetts.

"My administrative team and I are excited to welcome Greg Dyson to this new role at Taylor University," said Haines. "Greg has established a great reputation within the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) and in Christian higher-education as a thoughtful, wise, and empathetic leader. He also possesses a proven track record in strategic planning at the collegiate level, and we believe Greg is going to do some great things here in our midst."

Dyson describes the early days of his service at Taylor as being on a listening tour as he gets to know members of the Taylor community.

"There is real community here at Taylor and I think that that's a really big part of this conversation," Dyson said. "We have amazing community ... and I've also found an immense desire to build for the future. That, I find to be incredibly encouraging."

T

Dyson and his wife Gina are the parents of three grown children. He wants to meet and hear from alumni who want to share their Taylor stories with him. You can reach him at: [greg\\_dyson@taylor.edu](mailto:greg_dyson@taylor.edu).





# CLIMBING HIGHER

## Taylor's Overseas Study Rankings Rise in Open Doors Survey

Taylor University's historically high national and regional rankings recognizing overseas study and service have risen according to the newest *Open Doors* report – a survey associated with the U.S. Department of State that measures study abroad and service learning trips from colleges and universities in the United States to international destinations.

In the category *Total Number of Study Abroad Students: Top 40 Baccalaureate Colleges*, Taylor rose four places from ninth to fifth nationally – a ranking that Taylor administrators say is significant in that Taylor is competing with larger universities on a nationwide scale. Taylor also moved from last year's third-place ranking to a second-place ranking among Baccalaureate Colleges for the number of students who experienced a short-term trip, and rose from sixth to fourth among *Top 40 Baccalaureate Colleges* for the percentage of students who participated in a study abroad experience.

The *Open Doors* report is a comprehensive information resource on U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit from

their home colleges, and is published by the Institute of International Education, an independent, not-for-profit organization with a network of over 1,200 member institutions. It is supported by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

"The high *Open Doors* ranking means that our students, and increasingly, more of our faculty recognize the importance of these opportunities for their careers and Kingdom impact," said Dr. Charles Brainer, Associate Dean of International Programs and Asian Initiative. "These rankings also point to Taylor's history and commitment to live out its mission statement."

The data used in the survey was compiled during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Taylor students study and serve abroad in 36 countries that include Bahamas, Belize, China, Ecuador, England, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, and Uganda. Most recently,

more than 400 students took part in overseas Lighthouse and academic trips during the month of January.

"This current generation of students is a global generation. They will not face the same future as those who graduated twenty years ago," said Brainer. "Students will need to be comfortable working with others from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds and will need to be ready to travel to and live in other countries. Short-term and semester-long study abroad opportunities are an important part of this preparation."


The *Open Doors* rankings come on the heels of Taylor's number one ranking in the Midwest in the *U.S. News & World Report* category *Best Regional Colleges* – the 11th time Taylor has achieved the number one ranking and the 22nd consecutive year for Taylor to be ranked in the region's top three. Taylor has also been highly ranked by *Forbes.com*, *The Princeton Review*, and *Washington Monthly*. [T](#)





# #TAYLORU


SOCIAL

ONE OF SOCIAL MEDIA'S BEST QUALITIES IS ITS ABILITY TO SHARE INSTANTANEOUS INFORMATION WITH FRIENDS, FAMILIES, AND LOVED ONES VIA TWITTER, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, OR VARIOUS OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA. HERE ARE A FEW TWEETS AND INSTAGRAM PHOTOS THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED DURING THE PAST MONTHS.

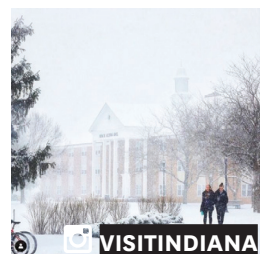
 [@OliiviaaMillerr](#) The only thing that's worse than people who clap at the end of a movie is the people who clap during a fire alarm at 11 pm #TaylorU


 [@LindaEdits](#) I am reading and grading my senior students' resumes as part of their capstone class. Seriously, they are so impressive. If I had a publishing company, I would hire all of them! #TaylorU

 [@jacigorrell](#) My urge to become Mary Poppins is never stronger than when I'm walking to class in a windy whirlwind of leaves and struggling to keep my hair out of my mouth. #TaylorU

 [@KHALLLLA](#) I think this is the tenth consecutive day I've had "What a Beautiful Name" stuck in my head. #TaylorU

 [@kiersten\\_mack16](#) I live in Olson and I stand with Sammy #TaylorU



 [@catallocco](#) Pretty speechless at how incredible [@TimTebow](#) was today. Thanks for coming to the middle of nowhere. We appreciate it. #TaylorU

 TAYLOR UNIVERSITY

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# Faculty Study Underground Railroad, Public Health in Africa

**DR. STEFAN BRANDLE** (Computer Science and Engineering), along with the group Taylor Women Engaging in Engineering and Technology (TWEET), taught robotics to 25 middle school girls. This effort was funded by a grant from the Indiana Space Grant Consortium.

**PROFESSOR JOHN BRUNER's** (Film and Media Production) narrative short film, *Grounded*, was an official selection at the Maryland International, Woods Hole, and Great Lakes International Film Festivals, as well as the Independent Shots Awards. It has also been accepted for screening and critique at the University Film and Video Association Annual Conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Bruner also presented a critique of the film, *Blind Ambition*, at the University Film and Video Association Conference in New Mexico.

**PROFESSOR KATHY BRUNER** (Film and Media Production) screened her documentary film, *Last Year at the Crossing*, at the University Film and Video Association Conference in New Mexico and at the docLAHOMA Film Festival in Oklahoma City.

**DRS. TIM HERRMANN '75** and **KELLY (Peters '05) YORDY MAHE '09** (Master of Arts in Higher Education) teamed with four former MAHE students to produce

*A Calling to Care*, a book length monograph published by Abilene Christian University Press.

**DR. ROBERT PRIEST** (Anthropology) worked with three students on a project that explored free black pioneer settlements of Weaver in Liberty Township in Grant County, Indiana. The free black settlement provided strategic resistance to slavery, safety, and education to residents of the Weaver community; the building of four AME churches; and support for the Underground Railroad.

**DRS. CAROL (Meier '88) SISSON** (Education), **STEVE SNYDER** (Psychology), and students from the Psychology department participated in a project that measured growth in intercultural competency for Taylor students who participated in a J-term practicum. The study resulted in the development of a pedagogical model emphasizing intercultural competency outcomes. The study was made possible by an Indiana Campus Compact Service Engagement Grant.

**DRS. BOB ARONSON** (Public Health) and **PHIL GRABOWSKI** (Environmental Science) participated in intercultural training. This was in preparation for a new J-term course

in Malawi and Zambia on sustainable agriculture and public health in community development.

**DR. ARONSON** also presented the final report to the Indiana Minority Health Coalition through the Grant County Minority Health Coalition for the project, *Engaging African American Male Youth in Assessing Factors Affecting Their Own Mental Health and Wellbeing: A Photovoice and Community Engagement Approach*. The project led to a proposal for a community-based intervention addressing challenges to mental health and wellbeing among African American male high school students.

**PROFESSOR TRACY (Tobey '92) MANNING** (Music, Theatre, and Dance) was chosen by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival to serve as the ASPIRE coordinator for Region III. ASPIRE is a new initiative from the Kennedy Center which combines Arts Management and equality, diversity, and inclusion to empower women and minorities to participate in professional theatre.

**DR. DEREK THOMPSON** (Mathematics) was awarded a Tensor grant to increase participation of women in graduate mathematics.





## TAYLOR PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

Exercise and weight loss are not the only components of the InViTATION program, cosponsored by Taylor University and Marion General Hospital.

Taylor University faculty and students have partnered with Marion General Hospital, Upland Health and Diagnostic Center, and local physicians to launch a diabetes prevention program aimed at increasing the health and quality of life in two of the state of Indiana's most unhealthy counties.

The program is called InViTATION (Inspiring Vitality and Transformation in our Neighborhood) and stems from a goal to provide Taylor students with opportunities to participate in a solution to community health needs.

Grant and Blackford Counties in Indiana are among the unhealthiest in the state of Indiana, said Dr. Erik Hayes, Associate Professor of Kinesiology at Taylor, and in a greater sense, they are a microcosm of a significantly larger issue. "At least 80 percent of chronic disease in this country could go away if people ate well, lived well, maintained healthy body weight, and didn't

**"Most programs training physicians don't learn about preventative medicine"**

smoke," he said. "(As you consider) the debate about Medicare for all – the truth is that all of that debate would go away if we had a healthier society."

Hayes, Dr. Diane Dungan, Associate Professor of Psychology at Taylor, hospital staff, and local physicians and dietitians developed InViTATION as a way to approach the problem with solutions that go beyond diet and exercise. Also included is studies of bloodwork, medication dosages, fall risk assessment, muscle strength, and endurance.

Dungan said success in the program would also be measured in factors that include weight loss, a healthier


lifestyle and eating habits, a better outlook on eating and exercise, and more.

"We look at stress relief/management, goal setting and achievement, and sleep," she said. "We have people who are reducing their risk of falls, are feeling more energetic, and are more engaged in life. We have people who are not losing weight, but are prioritizing movement over being sedentary. Weight loss is one marker of success, but we are also looking at others."

Thirty Taylor students are participating in the program. As local physicians refer their patients to the program, the students meet

with them at the Upland Health and Diagnostic Center. In just a few months, the number of people participating in the program has climbed from just a handful to more than 50.

"Most programs training physicians don't learn about preventative medicine," Hayes said. "This could be a unique program at Taylor – it would shape the kind of practitioners our students are going to be in the future. We wanted to create a program that incorporates research, prepares our students, and has an impact on the community."

"I believe firmly that a Christian liberal arts college should be in the health care field," Hayes added. "We should be involved in the hurting places in this world and, right now, chronic disease is a hurting place in this world and we can do something about it." 



# SPREADING TAYLOR'S 'SECRET SAUCE' TO CHICAGO AND INDY OFFICES

Relationships formed on campus at Taylor often endure forever. Sometimes even casual acquaintances spawn deep connection decades later.

Such was the case for two Chicago-area alumni with a vision to bring business leaders together, extending Taylor's "secret sauce" - its strong sense of community - to the marketplace.

Curt Lundquist '80 was a math major who turned his love for numbers and people into a successful financial planning career. Tim Duncan '83 was a business major who, after many years in business consulting roles, formed his own consultancy.

"Curt and I knew of one another, but it wasn't until we found ourselves at the same church after graduation that we really became friends."

They played volleyball together, co-owned a boat, and became best of pals. Each has two children - Joe '16 and Natalie Duncan '18, and Amy '16 and Heidi Lundquist '17 - who attended Taylor.

From that friendship and their love for Taylor, Lundquist and Duncan had an idea - to use their gifts and experience to help the University that helped them be the best versions of themselves.

Andrew Code, founder and partner of Promus Capital and Promus Equity Partners, leads a panel discussion during the Chicago meeting.



# Over the course of our careers, we realized Christians in the workplace crave connection.

First, they did strategy development for Taylor's Calling and Career Office. They also worked to connect students with Chicago businesses to do real-life projects.

The big idea came two years ago, requiring a collective effort between Lundquist, Duncan, and Taylor staff. Partnering with Taylor's Advancement team, the two launched the Chicago Business Connection, a quarterly breakfast forum bringing business leaders together from different industries, vocations, and generations, rotating between Windy City locations. Most who come have Taylor ties.

"Over the course of our careers, we realized Christians in the workplace crave connection," Lundquist explained. "It's so easy to isolate, and at our churches, we don't often go deep in discussing how to deal with business issues."

Since it began in the fall of 2017, more than 300 early risers have attended the six meetings. Networking starts at 6:30 am, and by 8:30 am, guests are free to head back to their offices - but most don't. Casual conversation generally continues

long after the interactive panel discussion stops.

The event has proven productive for students who sometimes attend. Several have already landed jobs with people they met at the forum.

"We weren't actually sure what to expect, but we never thought these would go as well as they have," Lundquist said.

Speakers have included: Carl Chapman, Taylor trustee and former president and CEO of Vectren Corporation; John Fellowes '01, CEO of Fellowes Brands; Mark Taylor, CEO of Tyndale House Publishers; and Tad Edwards, CEO and founder of Benjamin Edwards & Co. In January, the group featured a panel discussion on entrepreneurship.

Surveys say the forum is working well. Nine in 10 say they will come back, and the group has developed a LinkedIn group ([www.linkedin.com/groups/12112406](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/12112406)) so connections continue outside the breakfasts.

The concept grew last fall when the Indianapolis Business Connection launched. More than 200 attended the first two events in Indy, repeating the same quarterly, connection-building approach.

"Taylor taught us how to do community well. Extending that same sense of community to people who think like us and deal with similar issues is what this is all about," Duncan said.

While the forum isn't a Bible study, it's a living example of biblical stewardship in action for attendees - and the workplaces they impact. **T**

**TO LEARN MORE ON EACH:**

**Chicago Business Connection,**

[www.taylor.edu/cbc](http://www.taylor.edu/cbc)

**Indianapolis Business Connection,**

[www.taylor.edu/ibc](http://www.taylor.edu/ibc)





Sarah Harden finished first in the Crossroads League conference meet at the Taylor cross country course in November.



# A Special Gift

Sometimes, for a runner, there is a “zone” where everything comes together in what feels like a supernatural way. They are running strong and fast, and there is a sense of joy. It brings to mind the late Olympian Eric Liddell’s quote: “When I run, I feel God’s pleasure.”

Sarah Harden '21 had one of those days in November, when she ran her best-ever time at the NAIA Women’s Cross Country National Championships to finish tenth in the nation. Her teammates did, too, as they shattered the former school record by 91 seconds in finishing third. As Head Coach Quinn White '87 watched his team run, perhaps, the best race of their lives, he could only attribute the power and passion with which his runners raced to the hand of God. Especially so, considering just 23 hours earlier, Harden was on her way to the hospital after suffering a seizure, and her shaken teammates huddled together to pray for their teammate.

The day she had the seizure, Harden had strode out the first 200 meters of the course during a practice run when she realized something was wrong. About a 1,000 meters further, she collapsed. She remembers nothing from that point until her ambulance ride, but her teammates later told her that her pace slowed and she tried to say something before slumping to the ground, unconscious.

It was in those initial moments of uncertainty Harden’s teammates began asking for prayer from family members and other teammates – those requests led to a prayer vigil that covered Harden and her teammates for the next 23 hours. For White, since Harden seemed to be in no physical danger, the decision was that the team would go forward with the race.

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. (Psalm 16:8)

White said that passage was one of several the Lord brought to mind for him and the team over the next few hours. “We knew the only way we would not be shaken on the course the next day was with God on our side,” White said. “We had to give Him our burdens of worry and doubt.”

After a few hours’ observation, physicians determined her collapse was not heart-related. In the weeks since, she was diagnosed with epilepsy – a disorder that runs in her family and can be controlled (in Harden’s case) by medication. Having been the team’s number one runner for most of the year, and having trained for Nationals for the previous six months, she desperately wanted to run.


The hospital physicians, while cautious, left the decision to her and her family. Harden’s father, knowing the family history of seizures, told White he thought it was important that she run. There was more

prayer, and after consultation with Taylor administrators, a verdict was rendered. While the incident had been frightening, Harden was in no danger from running. The final decision would be left to her.

“I remember thinking, ‘If I even feel somewhat decent, I at least want to try to run because I dedicated training for this one race, and I didn’t want to give it up that easily,’” she said. “I remember turning to my coach and saying, ‘If I’m allowed to run, I want to run.’ So, after we talked to the school doctor about it and my parents about it, I got the OK from everyone. I was pretty set on at least attempting to run.”

But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

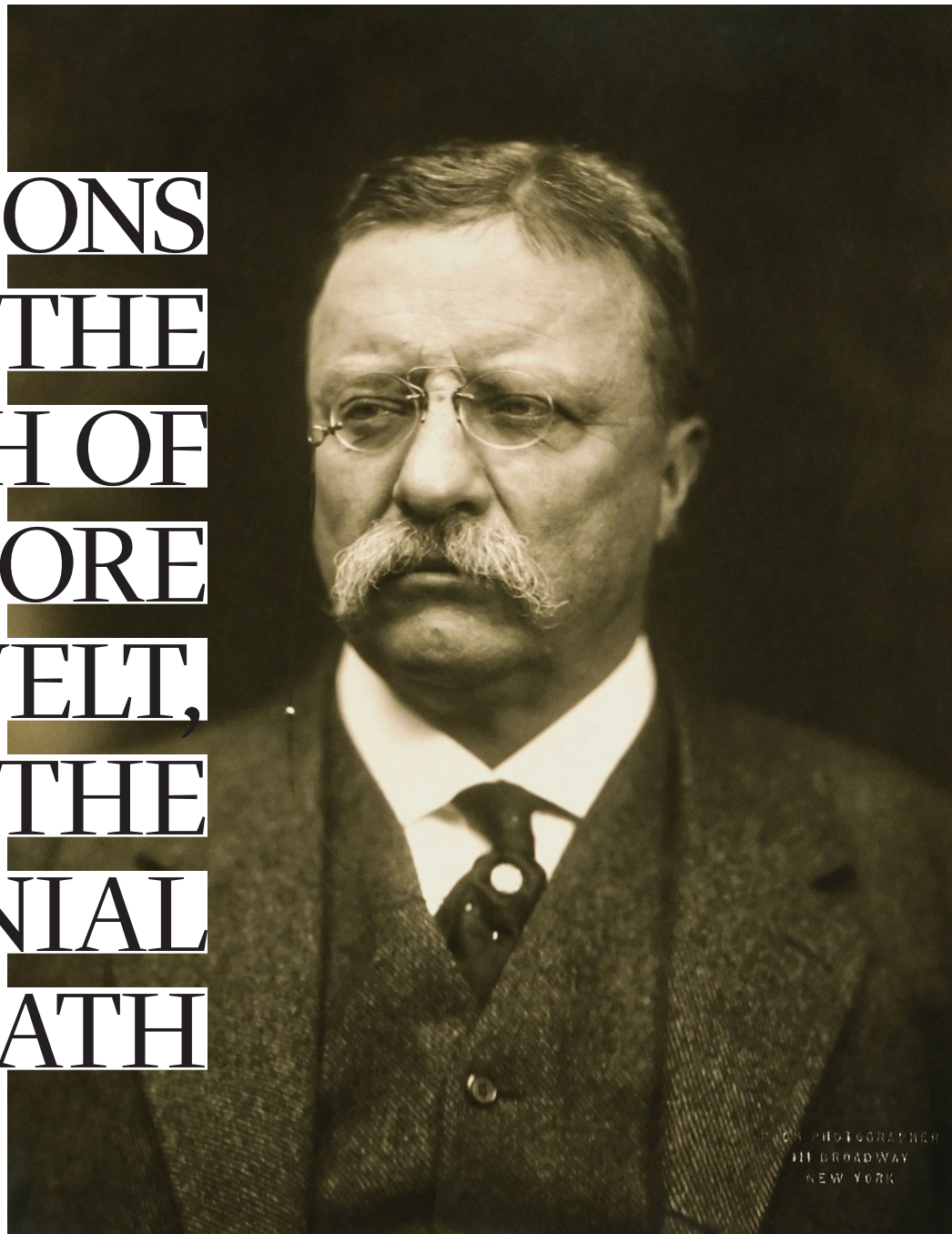
White said that passage was another that was especially meaningful to him and the team – before and since the race. “I didn’t care if we finished in last place. I just wanted them to be able to run burden-less, just to lean on God, just to go run,” White said.

“We have a special program right now,” he added. “Ultimately, this is about using the gift God has given each of us. Their gift is running. My gift is coaching them to be the best runners they can be. It is a gift.” 



# LESSONS FROM THE FAITH OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT, ON THE CENTENNIAL OF HIS DEATH

BY DR. BENJAMIN WETZEL



RON PHOTOGRAPHY  
111 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

Early in the morning of January 6, 1919, former president Theodore Roosevelt died in his sleep at his home on Oyster Bay, Long Island. “Death had to take Roosevelt sleeping,” remarked Woodrow Wilson’s Vice President, Thomas R. Marshall, “for if he had been awake there would have been a fight.”

One hundred years after Theodore Roosevelt’s death, his shadow still looms large in American culture – literally at Mount Rushmore, where his visage can be seen miles away. Figuratively, he looms because Roosevelt serves as a touchstone for liberals and conservatives, militarists and

environmentalists, big game hunters, and those who admire his refusal to shoot a certain “teddy” bear in Louisiana.

Lost in all the material about Roosevelt, however, has been the place of his Christian faith. While Roosevelt’s faith was not that of contemporary evangelical Protestantism, it was nevertheless real. Indeed, despite a lack of evangelical bona fides, Roosevelt’s

lifelong engagement with Christianity has lessons to teach believers today.

Roosevelt was born October 27, 1858, to a wealthy family in Manhattan. His parents were members of various Presbyterian and Dutch Reformed congregations. Emulating his father’s work with the indigent in New York City, the teenaged “Teedie” – as he was affectionately known – taught a “mission” Sunday School



class for underprivileged children until he left for Harvard in the fall of 1876.

Harvard proved to be the pinnacle of Roosevelt's pious, doctrinally-grounded faith. Although he was hundreds of miles from home, he nevertheless continued his Sunday School teaching at Christ Episcopal Church in Cambridge (until he was discovered to be a Presbyterian and subsequently dismissed). His diary entries from his college days reveal a young man taking in Harvard social life but also attempting to maintain a relationship with the Lord. The depth of Roosevelt's faith became especially evident after his father, Theodore Sr., died of bowel cancer in 1878. Devastated, the young Roosevelt read passages of Scripture, copied a hymn in his diary, and confessed, "Nothing but my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ could have carried me through this, my terrible time of trial and sorrow." While this testimony was significant, it would also prove rare: almost never in later life did TR mention Jesus Christ directly.

This absence certainly had something to do with the crushing tragedy Roosevelt suffered in 1884. The 25-year old Roosevelt received a cable in Albany, New York, stating that his wife was in poor health after delivering their first child. Panic-stricken, Roosevelt boarded the first train to Manhattan only to find his wife and his mother dying in the same house. While his infant daughter, Alice, survived, his wife and mother perished within a few hours of each other. Filled with grief, Roosevelt traveled to ranches he had purchased in the Dakota Territory.

After 1884, Roosevelt's religious life is harder to track. His diary entries became much less revealing after his tragedy and then stopped altogether by 1887. His subsequent rise through political, administrative, and military channels left little time for reflection on his interior religious life.

Nevertheless, certain patterns are apparent throughout Roosevelt's adulthood: an emphasis on "righteousness" and "morality." According to Roosevelt's environmentalist ally, Gifford Pinchot, the 26th president was "a preacher of righteousness." Clerical language abounds in descriptions of him, like the

newspaper reporter who claimed that he kept "a pulpit concealed on his person." Roosevelt himself encouraged this kind of language, describing the presidency as a "bully pulpit" (with "bully" meaning something like "grand"). While Roosevelt was prone to the same sinful tendencies that afflict all human beings, he insisted that his actions were governed only by considerations of right and wrong – and many times he was correct.

#### ***Stress on ecumenism and lack of doctrinal specificity.***

For many evangelicals, this is the most disturbing part of TR's faith. As an adult, Roosevelt grew increasingly broad-minded about religious belief. This had its positive side, as he refused to discriminate against Roman Catholics and appointed the first Jewish American, Oscar Straus, to a cabinet position in 1906. However, Roosevelt's ecumenism was also ideological: he believed that people could believe whatever they wished about God as long as they were personally moral. The most famous instance of this attitude occurred in 1908, when Roosevelt's friend William Howard Taft was running for president. Conservative Protestants accused Taft (accurately) of being a Unitarian – that is, a member of a sect that denies Jesus' divinity. Although TR stayed on the sidelines during the election, privately he derided the "bigoted" and "narrow-minded" Protestants who opposed Taft and later stated publicly that Taft's theological beliefs were between himself and God.

All this, then, leads to at least two lessons 21st century Christians might learn from Theodore Roosevelt. Positively, believers can be inspired by Roosevelt's stress on righteousness and morality.

This emphasis, of course, is well in keeping with the biblical injunctions to live in a way that honors God. However, there is little in Roosevelt suggestive of grace, mercy, or redemption. "I am mighty weak in the Lutheran and Calvinistic doctrine of salvation by faith," he once confessed, "[but] I do believe in the gospel of works as put down in the Epistle of James." Roosevelt excelled at preaching law, but observers can wonder if there was any need for grace in his moral economy.

More negatively, evangelicals would quarrel with the breadth of Roosevelt's ecumenism. It is one thing to treat all people with respect and dignity, and another to assert that their beliefs are irrelevant to their eternal destinies. Precisely because Roosevelt emphasized moral conduct so much, he minimized doctrines that are essential to orthodox Christian faith. Contemporary believers must resist the urge to downplay essential Christian doctrines in efforts to find allies in the culture wars.

While Christian historians can never know with certainty if people from the past were truly born again, they can point to patterns in people's lives. From my vantage point, Roosevelt's life of faith offers both encouragement and caution. People are complex – and contemporary evangelicals can appreciate aspects of Roosevelt without adopting his outlook wholesale. ■

[Dr. Benjamin J. Wetzel](#) is an Assistant Professor of History at Taylor University. He is working on a religious biography of Theodore Roosevelt (under advance contract with Oxford University Press). A version of this essay first appeared at *The Gospel Coalition* on January 6, 2019.



# BIGGER BOAT GREATER CULTURAL IMPACT

BY JAMES R. GARRINGER H'15

An artist's rendering of the proposed Film and Media building on the Taylor campus.









There is a scene in the movie *Jaws* in which the late actor Roy Scheider, after coming face-to-face with the great white shark that has stalked the shores of Amity, Massachusetts, utters the now-famous line: *You're gonna need a bigger boat.*

Taylor Film and Media professors John and Kathy Bruner can relate. In 2005, having just arrived at Taylor from Asbury College, where the film program for which they served as faculty had more than doubled, the Bruners were given a simple mandate: fix Taylor's Film program, or it would be shut down. The program had experienced success in the past, it had created graduates who were making an impact in the

field, but something was causing the program's numbers to shrink.

When the Bruners went to work, the first thing they did was a sort of reimagining of what the program could be. It had been primarily a journalism-style program, but the Bruners, and Taylor's administration, recognized the need for the program to grow into documentary and film. When they surveyed the facilities available to them in the Rupp Communications Art Center, they found that while the facilities allotted to the film program previously might have worked, that was no longer the case. This new program would need more space. It desperately needed more up-to-date

equipment: from cameras, lenses, and tripods to post-production facilities. And it needed more dedicated and specially-prepared personnel who could mentor Taylor's aspiring filmmakers and storytellers.

"I guess the program had been through some pretty rough years," John Bruner remembered. "I always felt I had allies at Taylor ... so, I added in my end-of-the-year report, 'It would be great if we had more space because we're absolutely pinched.' They asked me, 'How much more space?' and I told them it was a really complicated answer because you don't just add more space, you've got adjacencies (rooms and equipment in close proximity to

each other), you've got heating and cooling requirements, humidity requirements, and cable paths."

Taylor's administration responded, repurposing space in the Rupp Center, hiring additional personnel to mentor and support students in the program, and procuring equipment like the state-of-the-art, industry-standard RED cameras that allow Taylor's aspiring storytellers to familiarize themselves with, and extensively use, equipment that will make them stand out in a fiercely-competitive job market.

Fourteen years later, the reimagined program has thrived. From 12 students in 2005, the program has



expanded to 75 students. And the expansion cannot be measured in only terms of numbers; the caliber of the program has risen as well. When the Taylor student documentary, *Cos Wars: More than A Hobby*, was selected for inclusion in the Lake Michigan Film Competition, it marked the 300th honor for the Film and Media program in the 14 years since its inception. Award nominations have come from numerous organizations - most notably the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences, Lower Great Lakes Chapter - the regional Emmy organization. Taylor films have been recognized by a variety of film festivals from the Heartland and Imago Film Festivals to the Toronto Film Festival and National Film Festival for Talented Youth. Taylor television programming has been featured at the National College Television Awards and Disney's Imaginations Competition, along with a host of others.

And the program has more than adequately prepared Taylor's students for impact after graduation. From a Disney Imagineer and alumni creating visual effects for the Amazon hit program *Man in the High Castle* to those working in the nonprofit sector such as Samaritan's Purse, Taylor's Film and Media graduates are not only working in the field they studied, but also thriving in terms of their profession and impact.

"Frankly, if you're not equipped at a high-level leaving college, it's a really tough industry to succeed in," John said. "And if you don't have an edge, it's very hard to get into the higher echelon of the field. There's just no way. Our goal is that you might just get an entry-level job when you get out. It's possible. You may not, you may move up higher than that. But you won't stay in that entry-level job

because you've got such a background, and you understand how to learn the technology."

Beyond the professional preparation, Kathy Bruner said the impact of Christ-followers in this industry cannot be understated.

"Taylor sends a third of its graduates into the entertainment industry," she said. "That is where I think we really can have, over the long haul, some cultural influence. We're not going to have it at the intern level, but when they're in middle management, and when they're in upper management or running their own companies someday. I think having that winsome Christian voice, speaking into culture, into independent film, into the big networks, and all the chaos that's going on there with fragmentation of the industry, can be impactful.

"Another third of our grads are serving in the non-for-profit realm," Kathy added. "So, that's churches, missions' organizations, and other non-for-profit groups that need to tell their story of what God's doing around the world."


With the success realized by the Film and Media program, the Bruners and Taylor's administration say the time has again come for a "bigger boat." A proposed new facility, designed and built specifically for film, could double the number of students from 75 to 150. Administrators say the new building is a fundraising priority, and preliminary concepts and renderings have ramped up the Bruners' anticipation of what the future may hold.

"We're excited about the potential of sharing the Taylor Film and Media Production major with even more students," John said. "The new facility will allow us to prepare more storytellers equipped to create work that is good, beautiful, and true.

"Our graduates from the last 14 years are doing wonderful work, and they stand alongside graduates working in entertainment and media who preceded our time at Taylor," he continued. "The new building will allow future generations of Taylor students to develop their passion for visual storytelling in a state of the art facility, surrounded by creative collaborators." ■

Taylor sends a third of its graduates into the entertainment industry. That is where they really can have, over the long haul, some cultural influence. We're not going to have it at the intern level, but when they're in middle management, and when they're in upper management or running their own companies someday. Having that winsome Christian voice, speaking into culture, into independent film, into the big networks, and all the chaos that's going on there with fragmentation of the industry, can be impactful.

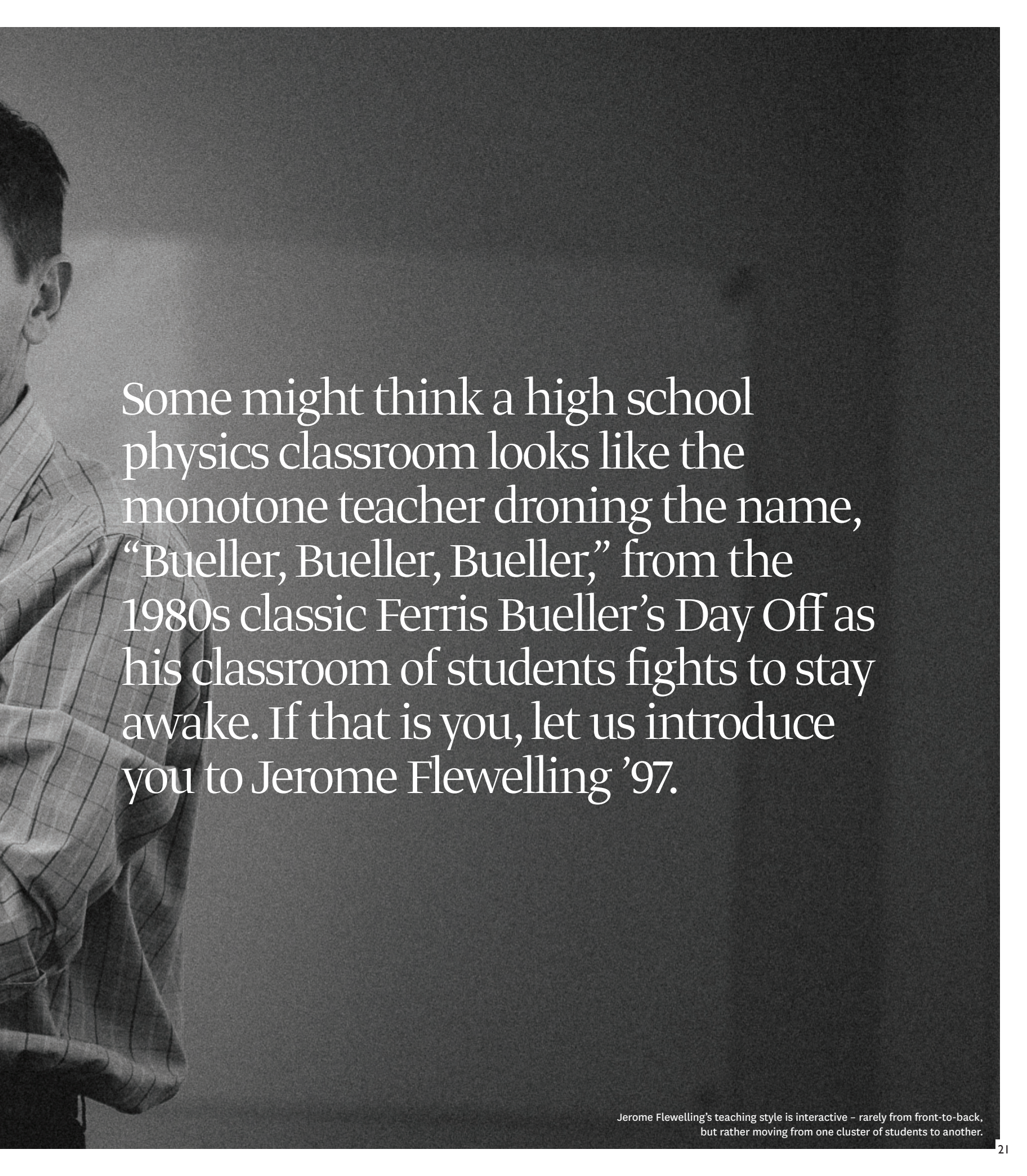




# MAKING PHYSICS FUN

BY JAMES R. GARRINGER H'15





Some might think a high school physics classroom looks like the monotone teacher droning the name, “Bueller, Bueller, Bueller,” from the 1980s classic Ferris Bueller’s Day Off as his classroom of students fights to stay awake. If that is you, let us introduce you to Jerome Flewelling ’97.



# AT THE END OF THE DAY, REACHED THEM BY THE BUILT, THE APPRECIATION THEM I'VE BEEN ABLE TO WE'VE HAD. THEY AFFECT AFFECT

As the class begins, Flewelling, or Flew, or even Flew Man (as he prefers to be called, and as his students and friends know him), divides his students into small working clusters throughout the classroom. Then he introduces the first physics exercise of the day. The first step is that each group puts two of their desks a forearm's length apart. As the students are measuring, there is laughter. Then, Flew passes out two sheets of paper and a piece of duct tape that is roughly a foot-and-a-half long to each group. The assignment? Each group must make a bridge out of the materials provided for them.

As the students start the task, Flew moves from group to group. He does not sit down. He is always standing, always pacing, always encouraging, and always laughing with his students. "That other group is making some good progress," he challenges one team. There is nervous laughter as the students refocus themselves to their task. The students aren't sitting silently. They are talking to each other, sharing ideas, and figuring

out what might work, all the time unaware they are engaging in design and problem solving - skills that will not only benefit them in physics, but in many other areas of life.

When the students are finished with their bridges, Flew issues the final instruction: the bridge must be strong enough to support a cell phone. There is more laughter, plus a few panicked looks. Now the students have to decide whose cell phone is the lightest, and maybe whose cell phone is in the most protective case. More problem solving. More affirmation. And, no boredom.

Innovation. Excellence. Empathy. Connection. Inspiration. Flewelling's pursuit of those traits has not only made his classes among the most popular at Crown Point High School in the East Chicago region of Indiana, it also led to his being named the Teacher of the Year by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE).

While Flewelling seems to be a natural in the classroom, he will tell you it was never really on his radar as a career choice until college. "This job encapsulates a lot of who I am and the things I enjoy doing. I didn't grow up knowing that I wanted to be a teacher. In fact, the thought never even crossed my mind," he said.

When he received his first gaming system (Pong) as a second grader, Flewelling wanted to be a programmer. In fourth grade, his mother drafted him into a church musical, and while he initially grumbled about it, he had decided by the end of the production that he wanted to star on Broadway. After a great camp experience, he thought his calling was to become a camp counselor - that was until he connected with his high school physics teacher. That was why he thought he wanted to major in physics at Taylor.

But, at school, reality set in (he didn't really see himself doing research as a job). Flew's friends at Taylor asked him



# DAY, I KNOW THAT I'VE E RELATIONSHIPS WE'VE N OF THE WORLD AROUND D INSTILL, AND THE FUN T ME JUST AS MUCH AS I THEM."

if he'd ever considered teaching. "They thought my skills and talents were a good fit in that profession. I had to admit that I hadn't thought about it, but it was worth a shot," he said. "So fall semester of my sophomore year, I signed up for my first teaching course, Education in America. After visiting classrooms, I felt like education pulled together all those parts about me - theatre, working with kids, and programming - into one incredible profession."

Flew's teaching load includes math and chemistry, and he is the faculty sponsor for the high school's theatre department. He says, as a teacher of science, he sees no incongruity between his beliefs and the material with which he engages his students. Flewelling, who prays each morning on his walk to school that God would speak to his students, referenced the Matthew 5 passage about being salt and light in the world.

"You don't have to taste salt to know that it is salt," he said. "You can walk into a room and know whether the light is

on. In the same way, people recognize something different in a person of faith. They see the love of Christ whether it is spoken or not. The students can see this. And inevitably, various students will mention it every year opening the doorway for me to have more personal conversations with them."

Inevitably, it leads to some of his students asking, somewhat incredulously, if he, as a science teacher, believes the Bible.

"A friend of mine once put it well," Flew said. "'We each have to go through our own journey, or angst, to find some sort of resolution between the science we study and the faith we hold.'"

"For me, our God is an amazing God," he continued. "And, the more we study the natural world, the more it displays His glory. I'm such an analytical person that, in the areas of seeming contradiction, I feel that either I haven't researched everything about those areas to make a judgement call, or as a community we

don't have all the information available to see the whole picture. Either way, I know that my God is an incredible God that sent his perfect Son to die for my sins. All the rest is a process of me growing and learning about how incredible He is. One day, maybe tomorrow, maybe in eternity, I'll see the whole picture and know how perfectly science reveals the majesty of our Creator.

"The other gratifying part of the job is working with the students," Flewelling said. "There is so much potential, excitement, goofiness, realness. Yes, they have their trying moments, but so do I. At the end of the day, I know that I've reached them by the relationships we've built, the appreciation of the world around them I've been able to instill, and the fun we've had. They affect me just as much as I affect them." ■






# INTRODUCING TAYLOR UNIVERSITY'S NEW STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

BY STEVE FORD & JAY LINK





Taylor University has launched a ministry to help people better understand and implement sound biblical stewardship in how they manage all the resources the Lord has entrusted to them. It's a new program intended to provide creative information and practical help to anyone in the Taylor family.

Following is a conversation with Jay Link, Director of Stewardship Planning, who shares his excitement about Taylor's new Stewardship Ministry.

**Q: WHY HAS TAYLOR LAUNCHED THIS NEW STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY?**

**JAY:** You don't need to spend much time at Taylor to catch its mission to "develop servant leaders." While students are enrolled here, Taylor carries out this mission with intentionality. However, Taylor recognized it was providing little in the way of ongoing spiritual resources and discipleship development after graduation. This new Stewardship Ministry has been created to provide the extended Taylor family with the spiritual and practical tools, counsel, and resources needed to continue to grow in their personal and spiritual lives as well as enhance their ability "to minister Christ's redemptive love and truth to a world in need."



**Q: ONE OF YOUR FIRST TASKS WAS TO CREATE A THEOLOGY OF ADVANCEMENT FOR TAYLOR. TELL US ABOUT IT.**

**JAY:** Taylor realized the need for a written statement articulating the biblical basis for why and how the university raises funds required to maintain and expand the ministry of Taylor. I was asked to guide a team in the construction of a document to outline a biblical foundation for fundraising beliefs and practices. Over several months, we worked to create Taylor's *Theology of Advancement* - a detailed summary of policies and practices that have been observed and implemented at Taylor for decades, but not formally documented. What emerged is profoundly powerful and compelling.

**Q: ISN'T "STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY" JUST ANOTHER WAY TO ASK ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TO WRITE BIGGER CHECKS TO TAYLOR?**

**JAY:** The word "stewardship" is often misused in the Christian community. This powerful, life-changing concept has been mistakenly reduced to a synonym for giving. In order to appreciate this word, we must first accept that God owns everything and we own nothing. I think we all believe this intellectually, but more often than not, we practically live like we own everything.

Since we are not the owners, but simply stewards, or caretakers of God's resources, our singular goal should be to use the resources God has entrusted to us to carry out His will. Stewardship is really not about what we are giving, it is about what we are keeping and managing for Him.

This ministry was created to help us effectively manage all of God's resources - our time, talents, relationships, careers, the earth, our possessions, and so forth. If the Lord should lead you to give to Taylor, that is wonderful, but that is not why this ministry was created. It is focused on what we can give to you, not what we can get from you.

**Q: IS IT TRUE THAT EVERY ASPECT OF THIS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY IS GROUNDED IN SCRIPTURE?**

**JAY:** Every principle, practice, and application of this ministry is firmly grounded in the Word of God and a biblical worldview. It is quite unfortunate that even committed Christians still follow beliefs and practices that emanate from a secular worldview unaware of the biblical contradictions. If we understand that our singular objective in life is to carry out the wishes of the Owner, it seems obvious we need to be scouring the "Handbook for Good and Faithful Stewardship - the Bible."

**Q. I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE THREE QUESTIONS AT THE HEART OF WISE STEWARDSHIP. WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY DO THEY MATTER?**

**JAY:** Here are three critical financial stewardship questions everyone needs to ask.

**"How much is enough for us?"** This is both an emotional and a spiritual question as well as a financial one that few of us ever think to ask ourselves. But we all need to determine how much of what the Lord is providing to us, does He want us to consume on our lifestyle.

**"How much is enough for our heirs?"** As you grow older and have children and eventually grandchildren, this question becomes not only extremely important, it also can become extremely complex. There are a host of conundrums that are not easily resolved.

**"What are we going to do with what's left over?"** Until you answer questions one and two, you won't know how much, if any, you have left over that could be utilized for Kingdom purposes deployed while you are still here or once you go to be with the Lord.




### Q: HOW DOES THIS NEW MINISTRY BENEFIT TAYLOR?

**JAY:** This ministry is just an extension of the mission that has driven Taylor for the past 173 years. Now, Taylor is not only focused on impacting students who are currently enrolled, but also on those who have graduated, their families, and all those who have become friends with Taylor over the years.

### Q: HOW CAN SOMEONE GET CONNECTED AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS NEW MINISTRY?

**JAY:** You can visit our new website ([www.taylor.edu/stewardship](http://www.taylor.edu/stewardship)) to learn more and to sign up for our Biblical Stewardship newsletter. You can also email me at [stewardship@taylor.edu](mailto:stewardship@taylor.edu) or call my office at 765-998-4886. I would very much enjoy hearing from you.

I hope you can now see that this Stewardship Ministry has come into existence for you. It is my prayer that all of you will take advantage of our resources and services to enable you in every way to become a good and faithful steward. 

**About Jay Link:** *Before he joined Taylor's staff last summer, Jay spent 35 years counseling Christian families on how to build customized Master Stewardship Plans. He is an author, has mentored hundreds of financial advisors and attorneys who have attended his training, and he started his career as a pastor. His passion is helping Christian families use all the Lord has entrusted to them for Kingdom-building purpose.*



## BRINGING BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP TO LIFE

So how are we introducing biblical stewardship programmatically to the Taylor family? Among the initiatives: To help everyone build practical knowledge, this month we are launching a digital campaign featuring inspiring new videos, e-mails, social content, and topic-specific articles. Go to [www.taylor.edu/stewardship](http://www.taylor.edu/stewardship) to learn more.

This fall, we will begin offering financial, accounting, and legal services advisors a series of online, continuing education courses to help them build their own knowledge so they can better advise clients. The goal is more Christian advisors providing biblically sound stewardship counsel.

For students, we launched a six-week whole-life stewardship class, then broadly introduced the topic at a January chapel led by Jay Link. More outreach with students is being planned. We are hosting small group stewardship briefings for families who have been blessed with abundant resources, and who wish to learn more about how to become more effective stewards. As one recent attendee put it: “My wife and I really enjoyed the event. The three big questions really got us thinking.”









# IS THAT ALL YOU NEED?

MY REFLECTIONS ON THE LIFE OF LELAND BOREN

BY PAUL LOWELL HAINES '75, ED. D., J.D. PRESIDENT

"The house with the pink barns," was how LaRita Boren described the LeLaLo Farm, just south of Taylor's campus. LaRita's husband, Leland, had the barns painted pink in homage to LaRita's childhood memories of Oklahoma.





Leland Boren speaks with a well-wisher during his 90th birthday celebration in 2014.



Taylor University lost one of its greatest friends and enablers on November 23, 2018, when our friend, Leland Boren, quietly exited this world and entered the world of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is quite simply a truism to state that Leland (and his lovely wife, LaRita, who preceded Leland in death) was the most generous and consequential friend of the University during the last 50 years of the University's 173-year history. It is also true to acknowledge that without their love and generosity, Taylor University would not be the premier institution of Christian higher education that it is today. His and LaRita's fingerprints are all over the academic buildings, student center, residence halls, athletic fields, sports facilities, and academic, athletic, and student development programs of the University. And, more importantly, thousands of Taylor faculty, staff, students, and graduates over the last five decades have been blessed by the scholarships, gifts, financial assistance, and love provided by Leland and LaRita that have enabled them to provide, pursue, and complete a Taylor education. Truly, with the passing of Leland Boren, Taylor University closes a wonderful chapter in its history and opens a new chapter resolved to maintain good faith with these two who have invested so much in the University and its people.

As best I can remember, I first met Leland Boren when I was a freshman at Taylor. He called me on the telephone on Third West Wengatz, said he had heard I owned a sound system, and asked if he could rent it to talk to his employees at Pierce Governor regarding a work issue. I had no idea who Leland was, but I needed the money, so I agreed. I charged him \$25 and walked away feeling "rich." That was the one time Leland ever asked me for anything!

About eight years later, following graduate school and a three-year stint as a Taylor Residence Hall Director, I

was then serving as Taylor's Director of Student Programs and determined that one of Taylor's student music groups needed a sound system (for which I had no funding). Forgetting my earlier contact with Leland, I had heard stories of a generous man in the town of Upland who might fund my need. Accordingly, I set up an appointment at his downtown Upland office, put together a proposal for \$5,000 of sound equipment, and met with Leland to ask for his support.

Leland's one-sentence response to my request was, "Is that all you need?" Not having ever asked someone for money

before, I responded with a stumbling narrative of how important this gift would be in helping our students. He responded again, this time a bit firmer, "Is that all you need?" Again, being slow on the uptake, I continued to stumble, providing rationales that were not requested. Leland finally leaned forward, looked me in the eye, and repeated for the third time, and with even greater emphasis, "Is that all you need?" The "light bulb" finally came on and I returned the next day with a revised request for \$17,000, to which Leland responded with a personal check for \$17,000.





Leland with Lowell Haines.



Leland with Bill Gaither.



Leland with Bonnie Odle.



Leland with Jerry Cramer during Leland's Hall of Fame induction.





# ALTHOUGH LELAND COULD BE EXASPERATING TO PLEASE, HIS REFUSAL TO ACCEPT LESS THAN ONE'S BEST LED TO A LIFETIME OF EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.



I witnessed Leland's (and LaRita's) generosity many, many times thereafter. To them, giving was a responsibility, a "calling," if you will. They understood that they had been blessed and wanted to share that blessing with others (always anonymously). Leland once told me, "I have a hard time turning anyone down or sending them away empty handed." As a consequence, Taylor University and its students, and many, many other colleges, universities, churches, public charities, causes, people, and students benefited.

Leland, to be sure, was not a perfect man, and never claimed to be. But he acknowledged the Lord's saving grace in his life, was assured in his talents and skills, confident in his experience and knowledge, and resolute in his decision-making and actions. He was not hesitant to call it the way he saw it and to challenge you to see it the same way. He poked, prodded, challenged, and cajoled, but all the while calling you to be better - to not to be satisfied with mediocrity or the easiest route, but to work harder, and to multiply your efforts. Rarely did his gifts come without strings, and, typically, he wanted his generosity to be leveraged - to be multiplied - to have even greater

impact. His refusal to accept the status quo or rest on his laurels resulted in greater successes and continuing accomplishments.

Although Leland could be exasperating to please, his refusal to accept less than one's best led to a lifetime of extraordinary accomplishments. The Taylor of today, this nationally recognized, highly regarded, premier liberal arts institution of Christian higher education, is evidence of a lifetime of commitment on the part of Leland and LaRita to use their gifts and talents for God's purposes. This marvelous institution, this wonderful ministry, will be forever grateful.

Leland's (and LaRita's) impact on Taylor over the last 50 years has been undeniable, indelible, and lasting. Over that same period of time, his influence on the lives of literally thousands of young men and women who have walked the Commencement stage at Taylor has been substantive and real. And his impact (and LaRita's impact), on this world for Christ, has been extraordinary. We are grateful for his life, his loyalty, his generosity, and his service. We will miss him. [T](#)



►► WE DO NOT WANT MERELY TO SEE BEAUTY . . . We want something else which can hardly be put into words - to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it. **C.S. Lewis**







# ALUMNI

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# NOTES

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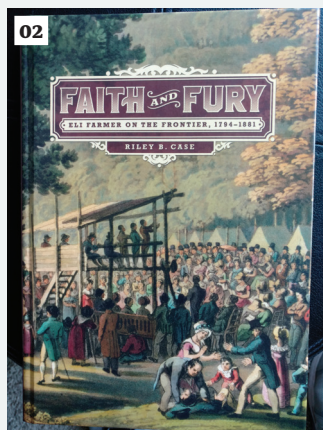


1957

**01 Barb Love** is active in her local church as president of the Ladies Missionary Society, chairman of the Missions Team Committee, the Publicity chairman, the teacher of a ladies' Sunday School class, and musician on the praise team (organ, piano, and violin). She began violin lessons at age 74 and has enjoyed the challenge.

**SUBMITTING ALUMNI NOTES IS SIMPLE...** Visit [taylor.edu/alumninotes](http://taylor.edu/alumninotes) to submit your alumni notes updates and photos. Please remember to upload only photos including alumni and a minimum resolution of **200KB** or **4 x 6 inches**. Notes can also be submitted by email at [magazine@taylor.edu](mailto:magazine@taylor.edu), by phone at (800) 882-3456, ext. 5170, or by mail: Alumni Office, 236 West Reade Ave., Upland, IN, 46989.





1956

**02** **Riley Case's** new book, *Faith and Fury: Eli Farmer on the Frontier, 1794-1881* was published by the Indiana Historical Society. It is the autobiography of Methodist circuit-rider Eli Farmer, with commentary, and tells stories of Methodist revivals and camp-meetings in Indiana and the West that redefined the meaning of the word "evangelical" in American culture. It is also an analysis of the Second Great Awakening, or the Western Revival.

1958

**George Glass** recently relocated to Newnan, Georgia.

1967

**Ed DeVries** and his wife, Karen, have moved to the State of Washington after living in Canada for over 50 years.

1969

On December 1, **Marilyn (Hay) Habecker** and her husband, Marlin, took up residence in Harvest, Alabama. By making this move, "Grammy" and "Grampy" will live much closer to their family.

1971

**Bob Canida** and his wife, Charlotte, showed their Taylor colors on a Santana Tandem trip in October in Corsica. Charlotte was a physical education instructor at Taylor from 1970-1974.

1972

**Brad Ludwick** is living out the call to communicate the good news of Christ's love to youth as a Campus Life director, magazine advisor, Calvary Westlake youth pastor, and teacher/coach/club advisor in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). He speaks at colleges, churches, and schools throughout the United States, and represents Christian Educators Association International (CEAI) to develop a new generation to transform schools.

**03** After 40 years of pastoral/district ministry with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, **Frank Smith** and his wife, Cherylbeth, have returned to Lake Swan Camp (where he worked from 1964-74), in Melrose, Florida. Frank is the Chairman of the Board at Lake Swan and also development director. The Smiths live in Keystone Heights, Florida, and would welcome friends from Taylor.

1973

**Jim Bromley** retired in May 2017 from Edward Jones Investments after 26 years as a financial advisor for the firm. He celebrated by riding his bicycle coast to coast. Jim and his wife, **Judy "Goldie" (Martin)**, reside in Clyde, North Carolina. They have three children and 11 grandchildren.

1974

**04** **Donna (Nania) Steiner, Diane (Nania) Johnson, and Jan Pietrini** joined **Corien Shafer** for *Chapalooza 2018* at Fairhaven Ministries, where Corien and her husband serve in East Tennessee. The friends get together annually to reminisce, laugh, eat, shop, and pray in memory of their dear friend and classmate, **Linda "Chap" Cummins**. They also toured the headquarters of Samaritan's Purse.

1976

**Kevin Lehman** retired after a 42-year career in education. After earning his biology degree from Taylor, Kevin went on to teach junior high science at Randolph Eastern School Corporation in Union City, Indiana, his entire career. Kevin also coached football, basketball, and baseball in both junior high and high school levels. Kevin attends the

Ansonia First Church of God in Ansonia, Ohio, where he serves as an elder and coordinator of the church's community group ministry.

1977

**Rod Shafer** has completed a 43-year career as head coach of the Warner University (Lake Wales, Florida) football team. Rod and his wife, **Susan (Healy)**, look forward to spending time with their grandchildren and watching their son, Justin, a member of the Toronto Blue Jays baseball organization and is chasing his dream to play in the Major Leagues. During his time as head coach, Rod shared the Gospel to over 600 of his football players.

1978

**05** **Kenneth Yocum** was with State Representative Kevin Mahan and State Senator Travis Holdman this August at his surprise retirement party at the Gray Barn in Upland. He received the Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Eric Holcomb. Ken has taught at Eastbrook Schools for the past 40 years, and he is married to **Kathryn (Donovan '81)**. They have five children and seven grandchildren.





SEE WHAT'S GOING  
ON IN THE LIVES OF  
TAYLOR ALUMNI



1980

**Kent Rhodehamel** and his wife, Laurene, recently moved to Easton, Pennsylvania, and began new positions in ministry. Kent is serving as the designated interim pastor of Ziegel United Church of Christ in Breinigsville, Pennsylvania. Laurene is the lead pastor of Christ Church, United Church of Christ, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

1981

**Todd and Cindy (Glass '82) Shinabarger** recently moved to Newnan, Georgia, to further embrace their Life 2.0 strategy of doing Kingdom work. They both volunteer with Operation Mobilization, based in Tyrone, Georgia. Todd is CIO, managing IT operations for the organization, and Cindy manages their hydroponics project, which birthed Go Grow Planters ([gogrowplanters.com](http://gogrowplanters.com)), a consumer-focused hydroponics product currently being sold at The Home Depot. These sales help to build sustainable hydroponic systems on the mission field around the world.

1982

**Kayleen (Brewer) Reusseer** has published her third book, *We Gave Our Best: American World War II Veterans Tell Their Stories*. The book consists of 34 stories of men and women who served in several branches of the military and is based on her personal interviews with 250 World War II veterans. The books include photographs taken during World War II, which were provided by the veterans.

1983

**Mindy (Date) Anderson** and her husband, Dean, are living in Seattle, Washington. They recently published a book, *Cheers and Amen*, which tells the story of their trek across country in 2016, during which they visited a church and bar in all 50 states in the U.S. Mindy works at a not-for-profit healthcare organization and enjoys the view of mountains, the Pacific, and tall buildings on her daily bus ride to work ... when it's not raining.

1984

**Bert Chapman's** book, *Global Defense Procurement and the F-35 Joint Strike*, was published in early 2019. The book analyzes the development and evolution of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter - a multinational aircraft endeavor involving the U.S. and many of its allies.

**06 Crystal A. Scott** participated in Bryan Middle School's College Colors Day. She works with all three middle schools in Elmhurst (Illinois) Community Unit District #205. Counting the schools attended by the staff of Bryan Middle School was a great way to celebrate post-secondary opportunities. The list of colleges and universities attended was then used to create a graphic number line in the front foyer of the school.

1987

**07 Judy (Emlano) Davies** and her family moved to Shrewsbury, Shropshire, United Kingdom, in November. The area is about two-and-a-half hours northwest of London. Judy is looking forward to her new life in England. Her husband, Brian, found a job with SNG Barrett, and their 17-year-old daughter, Megan, is finishing her senior year online.

1989

**08** Class of 1989 girls from Third East Olson recently met up in Frankfort, Michigan. Left to Right: **Lisa Walter Baird, Jodiene (Gamez) Anderson, Ginny (DeMerchant) Richards, Sue (Reynolds) Wright, Diane (Roth '90) Weatherbee, Beth (Miller) Wild, Tami (Fuhrmam) Biehn, and Beth (Dodds) Fenton.** Missing from the picture are **Diane (Jelsema) Bartow and Holly (Halvorson) Southern.**

**Tim and Ashlyn (Feil '90) Holz** have moved to Harrisonburg, Virginia. Tim is a Manager for Hobby Lobby, and Ashlyn teaches their two teenage girls at home. Their other daughters are in college; **Makenna '21** is a sophomore at Taylor.

1991

**April (Walker) Jurgensen's** new book, *The Orphan's Abba: Stories from Orphan Care That Reveal God's Love for You*, launched on November 1. April says when she founded The Boaz Project to minister to orphans, she didn't realize they would rock her theology, shed new light on Scripture, and revive her heart. In *The Orphan's Abba*, April shares inspiring stories from over 100 international trips to visit orphans and translates her experiences into powerful spiritual takeaways. The book includes an endorsement by **Dr. Scott Moeschberger '97** and Taylor University appears in the acknowledgements.

**Ken Kuick** was named the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for Noodles & Company on November 12. Prior to joining Noodles, Kuick served with Alberto Culver, Calamos Investments, Caesar's Entertainment Corporation, and VICI Properties Inc. Ken lives in the Las Vegas, Nevada, area.

**Jack Lugar** published the third novel in his 1940s-style children's book series, *Katz Pajamas*. He published two books independently through the Indianapolis Business Journal's publishing arm and Amazon before beginning *Katz Pajamas*. *Katz* prints on demand when an Amazon order is placed. Jack says he plans to continue the series and that he wants to start a young adult novel.

1995

**09 Dee Ann (Welch) Martin** and her husband, Matthew, are excited their daughter, **Kiersten '23**, will start her freshman year at Taylor in the fall of 2019. Kiersten has committed to play on Taylor's women's tennis team.

1997

**Amanda Nelson** was recently promoted to Senior Director, Talent and Total Rewards for the Doors and Security Division of Fortune Brands Home and Security. Their division is home of the building supply brands Therma-Tru (doors), Fypon (millwork), Fiberon (composite decking), Master Lock (padlocks), and Sentry Safe (safes).

## UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

### HERITAGE WEEKEND

April 26-27, 2019

### HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

October 4-6, 2019

1998

**10 Talbott Behnken** was named the Superintendent of Harvest Christian Academy in Elgin, Illinois. HCA is a Pre-K through 12th grade school with approximately 700 students. He is married to **Misty (Lossau)** and they have three children: Lucy (8), Charlie (8), and Maggie (5).

**Tim Walston** became Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics at Truman State University in October 2018. Tim has worked at Truman for 12 years and looks forward to the opportunities this new position will bring. During his job interview, Tim was able to highlight the benefits of the liberal arts education he gained at Taylor as framing his worldview in such a way that made him prepared for leadership at the state of Missouri's only public liberal arts and sciences university. Two faculty members who made a particularly strong impact on his development, education, and career path were **Dr. Andrew Whipple '99** (who has since retired) and **Dr. John Moore '73**.



## 1999

**Heather Hitchcock** achieved Estill Master Trainer certification with Estill Voice International in June. She works as a vocal coach in the Columbus, Ohio, area. Heather specializes in contemporary commercial music and provides vocal coaching in her private studio, live recording sessions, local high schools and theater groups, and for church worship teams. Heather says using Estill Voice Training, an anatomically-based methodology, creates countless opportunities for sharing the Gospel by using a creation-centered approach to communicating concepts of vocal technique. She says she is convinced that empowering vocalists with this knowledge will serve as a catalyst for faith-focused conversations about vocal science and technical excellence within the vocal community and contribute to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

## 2001

**11 Leandra Phillips** celebrated her 40th birthday in Brown County with other Third North English ladies: **Michelle (Brate '03) Hoffman; Rebecca (Oehrig '04) Ulasich; Erin (Van Buren '03) Crandall**, and **Elissa (Brooks '02) Bennett**.

## 2002

**12 Adam Hanna** recently graduated from the National Conservation Leadership Academy, hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Adam is a Lieutenant with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Law Enforcement. He and his wife, **Amy (Simon '01)**, reside in Neillsville, Wisconsin, along with their two children, Wyatt and Charlotte.

**13 Abram Bicksler**, after spending nine years in Chiang Mai, Thailand, recently started a new role as an agricultural officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome on the Agroecology and Ecosystem Services Team. He is joined by his wife, Rebecca, and children, Eliana (9), and Benjamin (7). His duties include providing technical and policy advice to United Nations member countries, collaboration, and networking to mainstream agroecology, technical backstopping of diverse UN and country projects, and acting as the FAO focal point for pollinators.

## 2003

**14 Nicole (Sampley) Parker** and her husband, Nathan, joyfully welcomed their third child, Marigold Frances, born July 6, 2018. Marigold joins older brothers, Michael (Mikey) and McEwan (Mac). The Parkers make their home in Miami, Florida, where Nathan pastors at Pinelands Presbyterian Church and Nicole teaches English online and cares for their little ones.

**William Winner** completed a two-year sea assignment as the Executive Officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship, Rainier. He has moved with his family to the Washington, DC, area. William now reports to NOAA's Office of Coast Survey as the Chief of Products Branch within the Marine Chart Division.

## 2004

**15 Kyle and Sarah (Kurtz) Dufendach** welcomed their new adopted son, Carter Frederick, to the family on December 19, 2018. Carter was born on July 28, 2016, and joins siblings Connor, Sydney, and Caleb. Pictured: Kyle, Sarah, Connor, Sydney, Caleb, and Carter Dufendach.

**16 Serena (Duke) Acker** was named Communications Officer for the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church on December 10, 2018. Serena will oversee the production and distribution of communications throughout the Indiana Conference. She brings a wealth of experience in communications, public relations, and project management from past roles with Rolls-Royce (on behalf of the Carlisle Group) and Grace Church in Noblesville.

**17 Emily (Caine) Carabello**, entrepreneur and small business owner of Carabello Coffee in Newport, Kentucky, recently won the Goering Award for the shop she shares with her husband, Justin. The Goering Center votes on regional businesses that are "best in class," judging applicants on their leadership style, employee development, culture, and community development involvement. Out of 75 semi-finalists and hundreds of nominees, Carabello Coffee is honored to take home the Family Business Division 16-75 Employees Award.

**18 Erik and Amy (Wong '07) Heavey** welcomed baby girl, Lake Virginia Pearl, on October 29. She weighed 7 lbs, 9 oz, and is greatly loved by her two big sisters, Thalia (4) and Nixon (2).

## 2005

**19 Coleman Grubbs** and his wife, Andrea, celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary in August. They also welcomed their second child, a son, into the world on May 31 - the same birthday as their daughter, who was born three years earlier. The Grubbs say they are reminded of God's interesting timing and unique sense of humor.

**20 Lindsay (Diehm) Waterman** and her husband, Jack, are parents of four children: Whitney (10), Wyatt (8), Weston (6), and Waylon (2). The family lives in Pendleton, Indiana, and Lindsay serves on the Board of the Indiana Parkinson Foundation.

## 2007

**21 Angie Boline** married Tim Mott on July 21, 2018, in Bloomington, Illinois. They reside in Normal, Illinois, where Angie is a 3rd grade teacher. Taylor alumni in the wedding party and in attendance include **Jill Wilcoxon, Katie Lehman, Tracy (Yoder) Morris, Marie (Kuehl) Morrison**, and **Laura (Levon) Schmidt**. Former Taylor Campus Pastor Randy Gruendyke officiated the ceremony.

**Kevin Wright** was promoted to Senior Vice President of Commercial Banking at Fort Wayne-based STAR Bank. Kevin has extensive banking and financial experience and has been with STAR for about 10 years. Throughout his tenure, he has spent time as a credit analyst, commercial credit manager, and commercial banker. Kevin also serves as a member of STAR Financial Group's board of directors.

## 2009

**22 Kelly (Barrow) Herndon**, her husband, Berkeley, and their oldest daughter, Amelia (2), welcomed Beatrix Marianne to the family on December 4, 2018.

## 2010

**Andy and Laura (Convy '11) Buckwalter** live in Asheville, North Carolina, with their husky, Kaz. Laura works as the Director of Conference Services at Montreat College, and Andy is a 5th grade teacher at New City Christian School.

**Lindsey (Bayle) and Travis Hardley '11** moved back to Michigan. Their son, Marshall, was born on March 1, and is the first grandson for either side of the family.





**SERVANT**  
**LEADERS**  
**MARKED WITH**  
**A PASSION**





TO MINSTER  
CHRIST'S  
REDEMPITIVE  
LOVE AND  
TRUTH TO A  
WORLD IN NEED



**23 Rev. Ethan and Lindsay (Bohl) Harrison**, live in Destin, Florida, with their daughter, Maren (1). Lindsay practiced as a therapist and supervisor for an intensive family therapy program before their move to Florida. For the past year, she has been teaching English online and caring for Maren full-time. All three Harrisons love camping, frequenting the beautiful beaches of Destin, and climbing at their local rock-climbing gym.

**24 Andrew and Maria (Tsuleff) Lehr** welcomed their first child, Nick Robert, on July 24, 2017. The family recently moved back to Indiana from the Dayton, Ohio, area, and Andrew now serves as Director of Student Success at Anderson University.

**Caitlin (Finney) Martens** and her husband, Jake, live in Elgin, Illinois, with their son, Malachi (5), and their daughter, Esther (2). Caitlin works as both a teacher and a health coach, and her husband is the owner of Button Man Printing and Games, located in both St. Charles and Warrenville.

**Eric and Lindsay (Rottmeyer) Rupp** gave birth to their second son, Theo Jesse, on November 16, 2018. Theo joins older brother Coen, who was born April 1, 2016.

**25 Chey and Melissa (Coffey) West** welcomed their first son, Lincoln Francis, on August 14.

**26 Joanna Mae** was born to **Josh and Emily (Yost '11) Wymore** on May 14, 2018. They live in Jackson, Michigan.

## 2011

**27 Meagan Bergem** has been working as Director of Junior High Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Fresno, California, for three years. She admits that working with students in that age range has been an inspiring and challenging journey and is grateful for the ways her education at Taylor equipped her for full-time ministry. Meagan is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Fresno Pacific University.

**Ashley Davis** recently started her Master's Degree in Exercise Science and Wellness Coaching.

**28 Brody and Bethany (Beck '12) Rathman** welcomed their first child, Emmitt Jay, on October 27. He weighed 7 lbs, 9 oz, and was 20.5 inches long. Bethany and Brody were both four-year athletes at Taylor - Bethany on the volleyball team and Brody on the baseball team.

**29 Bethany (Webb) Zander** and her husband, Jeremy, welcomed Gabriel Mark on July 16. They currently reside in Beaverton, Oregon, where Bethany works as a clinical psychologist and Jeremy as a high school band director.

## 2012

**Hannah Bennett** graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law on May 5, 2018. She sat for and passed the Virginia Bar Examination in October 2018, and was sworn into the Virginia Bar on December 5, 2018. She is employed as Associate Claims Counsel by Fidelity National Title Insurance Company in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Betsy (Brown) Martinez** was inducted into the Taylor Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2018. The only four-time NAIA All-American in the history of the Taylor volleyball program, Betsy was also a three-time conference Setter of the Year, leading the Trojans to three NAIA National Tournament appearances. She led Taylor to 135-32 and 49-1 overall and conference records, and finished her career ranked second in program history with 6,087 assists. In a news story in the fall issue of *Taylor*, we mistakenly reported Betsy is an assistant volleyball coach at Taylor's fellow Crossroads League institution, Spring Arbor. Betsy has actually served as the program's head coach for the past four seasons. Betsy and her husband, **Colton**, have a 2-year-old son, Everett.

## 2014

**30 Kyla (Martin) Carneiro** was promoted to Digital Strategist at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, a tribal government in Michigan. She celebrated four years with the tribe this April, and she handles all of their digital communications. She celebrated four years of marriage with **Rodrigo '13** in September.

## 2015

**31 Matthew and Jennifer (Neidich) Fenton** had their first child, a son, named Joseph Taylor. His middle name is in recognition of their alma mater.

**Kelly Raver** married Matt Kaufman on October 26. They were married at INDUSTRY in Indianapolis, Indiana. Alumni in attendance were **Erin Slater, Kharis Schmidt, and Diana Friend '14**. The newlyweds live in Anderson, Indiana.

**32 Jon and Lydia Grace (Espiritu) Gray** met in middle school, dated in high school, and benefitted from the free couples counseling at Taylor as they dated through college. Jon is working toward his PhD in chemistry at Rutgers University. Lydia works as a Children's Music Leader at Kingston Presbyterian Church. She also is a Chaplain Intern at Capital Health Regional Medical Center in Trenton, New Jersey, after graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary with her Master's in Divinity in May 2018.

## 2016

**33 Erika Nord** married Jacob Soerens on August 18 in Champaign, Illinois. **Audrey Estelle** and **Lauren Wills** were both bridesmaids. The newlyweds live in Wheaton, Illinois.

## 2017

**34 Jordan and Ally (Midgley '18) Shaver** were married in Terre Haute, Indiana, on August 18. They live and work in Wheaton, Illinois, and they have plans to pursue grad school in the coming years.

## 2018

**35 Abram Stamper and Lilly Burton** were married on October 6, 2018, in Kokomo, Indiana.



# IN MEMORIAM

*Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." —Matthew 25:34*

WE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS OF THE TAYLOR COMMUNITY WHO HAVE GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD.

## 1945

**36 Rev. William R. Siktberg** went to be with the Lord on September 20, 2018, after a brief illness. He was 95. Rev. Siktberg, or Bill, as he was known by family and friends, was ministered to in his final days by his two sons and many devoted friends from the Bennetts Switch Community Church (Kokomo, Indiana). Bill was a longtime member of that congregation and served twice as their pastor – first, early in his ministry in the late 1940s, and second, after he retired from the pastorate in 1988. After his first term at Bennetts Switch, Bill earned a Master's degree from Union Theological Seminary (New York), and served as pastor at Bethany Methodist Church in Brooklyn. He later served the congregation of Wesley Methodist Church in Franklin Square, Long Island. During his 13 years of service there, Bill was a creative promoter of youth ministry, steadfastly supported the Civil Rights movement, and participated in Billy Graham Crusades in New York. Later he served the congregation of Fishkill Methodist Church (Fishkill, New York) for 22 years, after which he retired and returned to Indiana and Bennetts Switch. Bill maintained a deep and caring Christian faith throughout his long life and was loved by many for his gentle manner, friendliness, curiosity, and creativity.

## 1951

**37 Henry Walter Nelson** passed away peacefully in hospice care at Windsor Park Manor in Carol Stream, Illinois, on October 8, 2018. He was 92. The son of a sailor, Henry left Brooklyn Tech High School at age 17 to join the United States Navy and served three years on the USS Providence-CL82 in the Mediterranean during WWII. Around

this time, he became a Christian through Jack Wyrzten's youth rallies in New York City. After the war, Henry attended Taylor University, where he earned a B.A. in Psychology and met the love of his life, **Mildred Lou (Holmes '52)**. Henry spent much of his career in higher education at a range of institutions. He received Taylor's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1975 and the President's Medallion in 2015. Henry is remembered by family and friends as a naturally gregarious person with a great sense of humor.

## 1956

**38 Loren Lindholm** died on May 14, 2018. His further education after graduating from Taylor included a year at Asbury Theological Seminary, a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota, and a Master's degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota. Most of Loren's teaching career was spent as a special education teacher for children who faced emotional and behavioral challenges. His wife, **Rita (Gerhardt '56)**, attended Taylor for three years and graduated from Asbury College while Loren was in seminary. They had two daughters, Jeanette, and **Kari (Lindholm '86) Johnson**.

## 1957

**39 Kenneth John "Ken" Stark**, 83, died on November 12, 2018, following a brief illness. During college, Ken toured Asia and South America, playing basketball as a representative of Taylor. He was later inducted into the Vinton-Shellsburg Athletic Hall of Fame. Ken was an active member of the Vinton, Iowa, community. He was a charter member of Blessed Hope Church and

served on the Vision Committee. He was also a member of the Virginia Gay Hospital Foundation and Virginia Gay Advocacy Committee. Additionally, Ken served as the Educational Representative for Vinton Unlimited and as a Board member for Vinton Parks and Recreation. He cofounded Party in the Park, and also served as President of the Vinton Education Association and Daybreakers Kiwanis.

## 1963

**40 Judy (Liechty) Holgersen**, 78, died peacefully at home in the arms of her longtime friend and companion, John Rako, on September 14, 2018, after a courageous battle with breast cancer. At age 15, Judy accompanied her parents to Tshikapa, in the Belgian Congo, where they joined volunteers to construct a school and provide health services at the Mennonite mission. She attended missionary school in nearby Lubondai for two years before attending Taylor, and after she graduated, Judy was a preschool teacher at the Bronxville Montessori School in New York for over 30 years. Her innate honesty, directness, kindness, and love led to near instantaneous bonds with the children, their parents, and anyone Judy encountered in her fruitful and wonderful life.

## 1964

**Linda (Stanton) Mattox**, 76, died on November 13, 2018. She enjoyed traveling, and she and her husband enjoyed auto racing at the famous courses of Sebring and Daytona, with Linda as crew chief and her husband as the driver. Linda had a career in education, teaching grades from first to college level. The last 16 years of her teaching career were with the IB program at Hillsborough High School in Tampa, Florida.

## 1965

**David George Horsey**, 74, went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on November 28. He is survived by his wife, **Karen (Plueddemann '66)**, and three children, **Marga (Horsey '94) Kragh**, **Melinda Horsey '00**, and **Jonathan Horsey '03**. Dave's

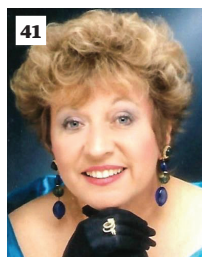
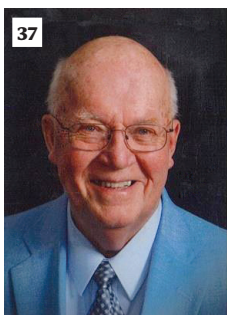
love for God's Word and interest in missions began at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, New York, where his family spent many summers. It was in church and in the kitchen, washing dishes and harmonizing with his sister, Joan, that Dave's love for music and acapella singing began. He was on Taylor's track and field team and played football, earning nine varsity letters. Dave was deeply impacted by his coaches and wanted to use sports as a ministry platform. In 1972, Dave and Karen followed God's call to full-time ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ. Dave had a deep love for God and His Word, family, ministry, the Marines, travel, and exploring different cultures.

**41 Janice Faye Leach**, 75, died peacefully in her sleep on August 9, 2018. After graduating from Taylor, Janice earned a Master of Arts degree in Communication from California State University. She went on to a teaching career at high schools in New York and Puerto Rico before joining the faculty of the University of Alabama (Huntsville, Alabama). Janice established Janus College and Career Services, Inc., in Winter Park, Colorado, in 1985, and did testing and coaching of young people for college admission. In the last decade, she concentrated on forensic document examination and testified on behalf of clients through her Janus Document Examination business. She was a Certified Questioned Document Examiner.

## 1967

**42 Eileen Grace Starr**, 73, died on September 20, 2018, at her home after a very short battle with pancreatic cancer. Eileen worked as a medical technologist at Faith Hospital in Glennallen, Alaska, as well as Professor of Christian Education at Alaska Bible College. In 1981, she founded Alaska Christian Ministries, which conducted events for Sunday school teachers and pastors in a number of cities in Alaska. In her last several years of life, she coordinated parenting seminars in the community and in local prisons. Additionally, Eileen loved the outdoors, animals, gardening, and sports.





## 1968

**Kenneth Enright** passed away March 23, 2018, in Urbana, Illinois. He grew up in the Katanga province and spoke fluent Swahili. He considered Africa his home, where he developed a reputation as a tough, serious, and fearless hunter. Upon the directive of his father, Kenneth begrudgingly left Africa to attend Taylor, and after graduating, began an economics Master's program at Northwestern University, which was interrupted by service as a U.S. Army combat medic in Vietnam. After his honorable discharge in 1970, Kenneth finished his graduate degree at Northwestern and earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Illinois. His desire to create led him to start various manufacturing companies. With his wife, Denise, he founded Altamont Company in 1978. In 2008, their sons, **Chester '10**, Merlin, and Patrick, joined the business. Kenneth also supported a school in Congo and a variety of large-scale economic development projects, including a woodworking factory in Zambia.

## 1989

**Sue Beth Peterson** went to be with the Lord on June 27, 2018. After graduation, she was an art teacher in county schools in Montgomery County, Maryland. For over 20 years, she was a member of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. She is survived by her parents, Marlin and Miriam Peterson, her brothers, Bill, John, and David Peterson, and her sisters-in-law, Anne Peterson and Brenda Peterson.

## 2002

**Amber (McClure) Fayerweather** passed away on July 17, 2018. Amber served as an assistant volleyball coach at Taylor for three years, under the guidance of her mentor, Angie Fincannon. She later coached at Mishawaka High School, her hometown school. Seeking a new adventure, Amber moved to Newnan, Georgia, where she taught for five years and coached the middle school team. She led Harrison High School in back-to-back State Championships. Amber and her husband, Kevin, were married on February 22, 2018. When given the cancer diagnosis on March 23, 2018, there were no lingering tears, just determination and a will to beat the disease. Amber died surrounded by loved ones and in the arms of her husband.

## BELOVED FRIENDS

**43 Dr. James (Jim) Gale Coe** died November 7, 2018. He was 70. Jim was a longtime Professor of Business at Taylor University, serving from 1983-2006. During his tenure, Dr. Coe received the Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award (1994), and was instrumental in the launch of a partnership with Nizhny Novgorod University in Russia that brought dozens of Russian students to the Taylor campus. He also played a key role in establishing Taylor's Oxford Study Program and in the founding of Immanuel University (Hyderabad, India). His passion in life was to teach others, share his faith, and encourage others to make an impact on the world. Dr. Coe is survived by his wife of 47 years, Linda; two children, **Sarah ('96)** (Jeremiah) **Coe-Gillam**; **Matthew (Sarah Nurmi '03) Coe '00**; and four grandchildren. Memorials can be sent to the Coe Family Endowed Scholarship at Taylor University, Leo United Methodist Church (Missions), and the Spring Arbor University Gainey School of Business.

**44 The Rev. Dr. Ron Keller**, a longtime and beloved staff member at Taylor, passed away at age 79 on July 29, 2018. During his service to Taylor, Ron served as Dean of Admissions for nearly 20 years, beginning in 1967. He also worked with the Taylor Advancement Office. His final Taylor-related role in Upland was helping to coordinate the Wandering Wheels 10 month, 10,000 mile "Circle America" perimeter trip. Additionally, while at Taylor Ron coached tennis and baseball, and served as PA Announcer for Taylor basketball and football. He is survived by his wife **Judith H '90**, daughter **Beth (Keller '88) Legate**, and son **Jeffrey '86**.



# Alumni Referral Grant

Refer a student who doesn't already know about Taylor University and they may receive a one-time \$1,000 tuition waiver!



\*Complete our student referral form.



The student applies to Taylor and is accepted.



Student receives \$1,000 grant for their freshman year.

*\*Referred student(s) may not be alumni dependents or have alumni parent(s).*

[TAYLOR.EDU/ALUMNI-REFERRAL](https://taylor.edu/alumni-referral)



## ONCE IS ENOUGH

As the saying goes, the first step is the hardest. That was especially true for **Dan Wolgemuth '77** last fall, when he and more than 70 civic leaders and local pastors rappelled from a 17-story building in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana, to promote an expanding youth ministry.

Wolgemuth, the president of Youth For Christ USA, took part in Over The Edge, an event designed to raise awareness and funding for the YFC Juvenile Justice Ministry in Indianapolis and a planned new program at Ben Davis High School, one of the city's largest. Participants were required to raise at least \$1,000 in pledges before strapping on harnesses, helmets, gloves, carabineers, and belay lines. Wolgemuth raised nearly \$7,000 for the "privilege."

"YFC has done these events in other cities, but I've never participated before," he said. "The compelling reason is that my wife, **Mary (Cargo '78)**, graduated from Ben Davis High School, and the thought of starting a YFC program in her old school was inspiring to me... it pushed me past my very substantial fears.

"It was quite an experience," he added with a smile, "and one I plan to never repeat."





# INDIANA ACADEMY

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## INDUCTS HABECKER FOR

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## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

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**Dr. Eugene B. Habecker '68**, President Emeritus of Taylor University, was one of three honorees inducted into the Indiana Academy. The induction ceremony was held in Indianapolis in October 2018, and also honored Hoosiers Jane Magnus-Stinson (Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana), and Mary Louise Miller (President of the Dr. Dane and Mary Louise Miller Foundation).

The Indiana Academy was established in 1970 by the Independent Colleges of Indiana to recognize individual leadership,

achievement, and philanthropy designed to promote the advancement of the state, as well as its independent sector of higher education.

Gene, who served Taylor as President from 2005-2016, was honored for a lifetime of achievement and contribution to the State of Indiana. He previously served the presidencies of the American Bible Society and Huntington University.

Gene and his wife, **Marylou (Napolitano '68)**, live in Indianapolis, Indiana.



ALUMNI NOTES

From left: Jane Magnus-Stinson, Gene Habecker, Mary Louise Miller



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# UNLEARNING LOVE? UNLEARNING TRUTH?

The University of Sydney (Australia) recently won an award for an advertising campaign promoting its undergraduate education model. The campaign proudly focuses on the idea of *Unlearning* foundational concepts and urges prospective students to, “challenge the established and question the accepted.” The campaign’s numerous taglines advocate that prospective students *Unlearn Love*, *Unlearn Truth*, and *Unlearn* other basic principles, beliefs, and understandings upon which they may have built their lives.

It doesn’t take a brilliant academic to understand the intent of the campaign. An excellent institution of higher learning does encourage its students to think outside the box, to wrestle with difficult choices, to challenge accepted conclusions, and to question long-held assumptions. All that is part and parcel of a good and effective educational experience. It helps the committed student to internalize knowledge and make the subject matter his or her own.

But as I considered the *Unlearn* campaign, I was struck with how well it captures the “world of today,” which takes pride in having no absolutes, no anchor points, and no foundations

upon which to build a truly meaningful life. Everything is fair game, and everything is up for grabs when the challenge is to *Unlearn Love* and *Unlearn Truth*. Each person creates his or her own reality and determines his or her own limits without external influence. That is the clarion call of the day. There are no absolutes, no limits, no anchors, and no restraints. Live life as you wish because you are the master of your fate and no one—no community, no belief, and no creed—has the right or authority to restrict you in pursuing your dreams as you best see fit.

Well, my friends, that is just not the Taylor of the past. And it is not the Taylor of today, nor is it the Taylor of tomorrow. We do not start from a position of no absolutes. Rather, we freely acknowledge, in the words of St. Augustine, that, “all truth is God’s truth;” that He created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them; that He is love and demonstrated that love by sending His Son to this earth to die on the cross in my place and in your place; that He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible, and through that “still small voice” of the Holy Spirit; that we are called - each one of us - to spend our lives proclaiming His gospel, and to live lives that reflect His love.

At Taylor, we challenge the minds of our students. We are committed to graduating servant leaders who think outside the box, challenge the accepted, and push beyond limits. Our graduates set the standards for excellence in ministry, medicine, education, government, the arts, politics, business, science, law, and every manner of profession and employment. But, we accomplish all that firmly grounded in God’s truth and God’s love. For us at Taylor, there are absolutes. We are not here to challenge those absolutes because they, my friends, are why we exist. God is love and God is truth, and on those foundational beliefs we have boldly built the Taylor educational experience for 173 years. Indeed, we are established to learn more about God’s love and God’s truth, not to *Unlearn* the very foundations upon which we have built our lives. We love and serve Jesus Christ, and we are educating and *developing servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need. Amen? Amen.*



Paul Lowell Haines ’75, Ed.D., J.D. serves as President of Taylor University.





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**TAYLOR STUDENTS** are being prepared for life according to God's calling through their academic pursuits. Each student has committed to a Christ-centered community, and the investment of their time and energy into the lives of those around them.

**TAYLOR UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STAFF** serve at Taylor to help develop these young people into difference makers in their community through academic rigor, leadership development, and faith enrichment.

**THE EXTENDED TAYLOR FAMILY** shares their time, talent, and treasure to support the education of each of our students.

It is the cumulative effort of the entire Taylor family that helps build an academic, spiritual, and financial foundation that supports every student. To partner financially with Taylor and her students please give online at [taylor.edu/giving](https://taylor.edu/giving).



**UNSTOPPABLE:** Kendall Bradbury's 2,700 points (at regular season's end) shattered Taylor's all-time scoring record and bested Bethel's Natalie Young's scoring record (now a member of the Taylor coaching staff) to become the Crossroads League's all-time leading scorer during an unforgettable senior season as she led the Trojans to 20 straight wins and the conference championship.



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